

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 165

Expressing the sense of the Congress concerning the International Year  
of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 14, 1993

Mr. PORTER (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, and Mr. UNDERWOOD) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Natural Resources

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress concerning the  
International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

Whereas United Nations Resolution 45/164 of December 18, 1990, proclaimed the year 1993 as the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples, in order to strengthen international cooperation for a solution to the problems faced by indigenous communities in areas such as human rights, the environment, development, education, and health;

Whereas indigenous peoples are descendants of the original inhabitants of many countries with many diverse cultures, religions, languages, and social and economic customs;

Whereas an estimated 300,000,000 indigenous peoples live in more than 70 countries, including the United States;

Whereas indigenous peoples, one of the most disadvantaged groups on Earth, face difficulties in their homelands with respect to issues such as self-determination, the preservation of land and natural resources, the preservation of culture, arts, and language, and social and economic conditions;

Whereas the tremendous contributions to the conservation of biological and cultural diversity by indigenous peoples are often undervalued, and the intellectual property rights of indigenous peoples with respect to the ethnobotanical and medicinal products and seed varieties they develop are often unrecognized;

Whereas many indigenous peoples continue to face discrimination, exploitation, and the denial of basic rights in their homelands;

Whereas the rights and social and economic conditions of indigenous peoples have often been overlooked by individual nations and the international community; and

Whereas the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations has drafted a Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which sets forth such basic human rights and addresses such conditions: Now, therefore, be it

- 1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2        *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—
- 3                (1) the United States should play an active role
- 4                in cooperating with indigenous peoples, the United
- 5                Nations, and national governments to promote pub-

1       lic awareness of and improve the political, social,  
2       economic, and environmental conditions of indige-  
3       nous peoples;

4           (2) the United States should address the rights  
5       and improve the social, economic, and environmental  
6       conditions of its own indigenous peoples, including  
7       Native American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native  
8       Hawaiians, Chamorros, American Samoans, and  
9       Palauans;

10          (3) the United States should actively support  
11       and participate in the work of the United Nations  
12       to establish international standards with respect to  
13       the rights of indigenous peoples, including the intel-  
14       lectual property rights of indigenous peoples with re-  
15       spect to the ethnobotanical and medicinal plants and  
16       seed varieties they develop; and

17          (4) the year 1993 is an insufficient time period  
18       for promoting public awareness of the plight of in-  
19       digenous peoples and the United Nations should  
20       adopt a resolution declaring an International Decade  
21       for the World's Indigenous Peoples.

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